Introduction of Express Train from Bolpur to New Delhi

2887. DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Bolpur (Santineketan) to introduce an express train from Bolpur to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Bolpur to New Delhi due to operational and resource constraints besides lack of traffic justification.

[Translation]

Technical Training Scheme for Mining in Delhi

2888. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any technical training scheme is being run for mining in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to launch any such scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Ticket Checking and Catering Staff

2889. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of ticket checking and catering staff in all divisions of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details of such shortage and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recruit more staff to remove the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

International Flights from Cochin Airport

2890. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines/Air India propose to introduce International flights from Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other airlines conducts flights from Cochin to foreign destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). At present, there is no proposal to introduce international flights from Cochin Airport.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Mumbai Metropolitan Region

2891. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a public demand to include the cities of Bhiwandi and Kalyan in the greater area of Mumbai Metropolitan Region; and

(b) if so, the time limit by which the above demand is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, requests have been received for inclusion of Bhiwandi into Mumbai Telephone System for the purpose of group dilalling facilities, Kalyan has the facility of group dialling with Mumbai at 180 sec. pulse rate. Bhiwandi does not fulfil the criteria laid down for provision of this facility.

(b) Does not arise.

Heavy Haul Goods Trains

2892. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long loops suitable for 9000 tonnes Heavy Haul Goods trains had been constructed in the Mughalsarai-Gaziabad section of Northern Railway to transport coal and other bulk commodities, at a cost of about Rs. 5 crores and that 9000 tonnes are not operated and the long loops are not used;

(b) whether it is a fact that Radio Remote Control equipments were bought at a cost of about Rs. 10 Crores to haul 9000 tonnes trains in Kiriburu-Bokaro section of South Eastern Railway to Transport Iron Ore and that these trains had to be stopped because long loops suitable for 9000 tonne trains were not constructed in this line but in Northern Railway;